AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At Paragraph [61] - Please amend paragraph [61] of the specification as follows:

[61]   In operation, the transmitter 404 may be adapted to send a first messaging protocol message between a first switch and a first access point. The receiver 406 may be adapted to receive a second messaging protocol message from the first access point and the first switch.   In response to the transmittal of the first messaging protocol message, a ~~second~~third messaging protocol message may be received. The controller 412 may be adapted to allocate system resources for one or more devices using any one or more of the first, second, and/or third messaging protocol messages. These devices may include but are not limited to the first switch, a second switch, the first access point, the second access point, and one or more access devices. The system resources may be allocated to ensure that at least minimal acceptable level of service is maintained.

At Paragraph [67] - Please amend paragraph [67] of the specification as follows:

[67]   United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/607,094 entitled "Communication System and Method in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network" filed on June 26, 2003, discloses a messaging protocol that may be utilized by the switch in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Exemplary valid fields and subfields for various messaging protocol messages that may be utilized by the switch in accordance with an aspect of the invention are

disclosed therein. Additionally, United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,140[[_____]](Attorney Docket No. 14178US02), now issued U.S. Patent № 7,164,663, entitled "Method and System for Providing an Intelligent Switch in a Hybrid Wired/Wireless Local Area Network" filed on September 9, 2003, discloses a messaging protocol that may be utilized by the switch in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The switch disclosed therein may be adapted to utilize the messaging protocol to provide network management in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

At Paragraph [72] - Please amend paragraph [72] of the specification as follows:

[72]   FIG. 5 is a block diagram 500 of an exemplary switching system for network management in a wireless local area network. Referring to FIG. 5, there is shown a CPU block 502 and a switching fabric block [[804]]504. The CPU block 502 may include a quality of service (QoS) controller block 506, a bandwidth management controller block 520, a load balancing controller block 508, a session controller block 510 and a network management control block 512. The switching fabric block 504 may include a filtering engine block 514. The CPU block 502 may be adapted to interface with the switching fabric block 504. One or more of the QoS controller block 506, load balancing controller block 508, session controller block 510 and network management control block 512 may interface directly with the filtering engine block 514.

At Paragraphs [85] – [86] - Please amend paragraphs [85] – [86] of the specification
as follows:

[85]   FIG. 9a is a flowchart 900 of exemplary steps for a QoS enabling process that
may be utilized by the switching system for network management in accordance with an
embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 9a, subsequent to start step 902, in step
904, a switch may request QoS information from another[[ ]] switch and/or access point
using a messaging protocol message. In step 906, QoS information may be received
from the switch and/or the access point using a messaging protocol message. In step
908, a minimum QoS level of operation may be determined by the switch. In step 910,
QoS information corresponding to the determined QoS level of operation may be
distributed to switch and/or access point using a messaging protocol message. The
exemplary steps may end with step 910.

[86]   FIG. 9b is a flowchart 920 of exemplary steps for a QoS enabling process that
may be utilized by the switching system for network management in accordance with an
embodiment of the invention. [[ ]]Referring to FIG. 9b, subsequent to start step 922, in
step 924, a switch may determine whether to queue traffic for an access point. If it is
determined that traffic should be queued, then in step 926, an access point may be
instructed to queue traffic using a messaging protocol message. In step 928, a switch
may determine whether to prioritize traffic for an access point. If it is determined that
traffic should be prioritized, then in step 930, an access point may be instructed to

prioritize traffic using a messaging protocol message. In step 932, a switch may determine whether to schedule traffic for an access point. If it is determined that traffic should be scheduled, then in step 934, an access point may be instructed to prioritize traffic using a messaging protocol message.